



Embassy of the United States, Addis Ababa

Weekly Special Report



Volume 8, Issue 39

September 28, 2006

Produced by the Public Affairs Section

INSIDE

State's Yamamoto Cites U.S. Strategic Partnership with Ethiopia

By Jim Fisher-Thompson
Washington File Staff
Writer

Washington – Ethiopia is one of the United States' most important partners because "it shares and supports many of our strategic goals on the [African] continent," Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Donald Yamamoto told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee September 20. The committee is considering his nomination to be U.S. ambassador to Ethiopia.

Yamamoto, a 25-year veteran of the State Department's Foreign Service, has been the main official in State's Africa Bureau for Ethiopia/Eritrean border issues and has helped shepherd a Great Lakes peace effort called the Tripartite Process. He also has been involved in talks with the Chadian government about its relations with Sudan over the Darfur crisis and has helped to facilitate recent elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). (See related arti-



Donald Yamamoto
Deputy Assistant Secretary of
State for African Affairs

(Continued on page 5)

U.S Announces 2008 Diversity Visa Lottery Program Registration

Applications for the 2008 Diversity Visa (DV) Lottery will be accepted between noon Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) (GMT-4), Wednesday, October 4, 2006 and noon Eastern Standard Time (EST) (GMT-5) Sunday, December 3, 2006. Applicants may access the electronic Diversity Visa entry form at www.dvlottery.state.gov during the registration period. Paper entries will not be

accepted. Applicants are strongly encouraged not to wait until the last week of the registration period to enter. Heavy demand may result in website delays. No entries will be accepted after noon EST on December 3, 2006.

The congressionally mandated Diversity Immigrant Visa Program is administered on an annual basis by the Department of

State and conducted under the terms of [Section 203\(c\) of the Immigration and Nationality Act \(INA\)](#). Section 131 of the Immigration Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-649) amended INA 203 provides for a class of immigrants known as "diversity immigrants." Section 203 (c) of the INA provides a maximum of up to 55,000 Diversity Visas (DV) each fiscal year to

(Continued on page 5)

African issues

Diplomatic Pressure Intensifies on Sudan (P 2)

U.S. Condemns Zimbabwe's Denial of Entry for Black Trade Unionists (P 3)

Remote Senegal Island Welcomes Safe Drinking Water (P 4)

Initiative Aims To Help Millions in Africa Access Clean Water (P 6)

Kenyan Government, U.S. Military Build School in Lamu, Kenya (P 6)

American news

State Department Launches Global Cultural Initiative (P 7)

National Book Festival A Day for Book Lovers (P 8)

International issues

President Says World Must Support Muslim Moderates (P 8)

Rice Dismisses Iran's Conditions on Nuclear Talks (P 10)

Bush Says U.S., Pakistan Collaborating and Strategizing Against Extremists (P 12)

U.S., Europe Working Together To Combat Drug Trafficking (P 13)

U.S. Researcher Urges Measurable Information War on Extremism (P 14)

Pakistan's Musharraf Expresses Thanks for U.S. Earthquake Relief (P 16)

U.S. Concerned by Thai Council's Limits on Freedom of Expression (P 16)

health issues

U.S. Global Pandemic Assistance Nears \$400 Million (P 18)

U.S. Announces Effort To Treat Neglected Tropical Diseases (P 20)

U.S. Response to Potential Outbreak of Avian Influenza (P 21)

Diplomatic Pressure Intensifies on Sudan

By Judy Aita
Washington File United Nations
Correspondent

New York -- "Time is running out", said Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who co-hosted with Danish Foreign Minister Per Stig Moeller a Security Council ministerial meeting September 22 to discuss the worsening security and humanitarian situation in Darfur.

"The violence in Darfur is not subsiding; it is getting worse," Rice said. "The international community has pledged to end the conflict in Darfur. It pledged to help end the suffering of the people of Darfur. And we have committed to a course of action that can achieve these goals. Now we must match the strength of our convictions with the will to realize them."

"This is a profound test for the international community, and we must show that we are equal to it," Rice told the group of foreign ministers and envoys of 27 countries, the United Nations, the European Union, the African Union and the Arab League attending the opening of the U.N. General Assembly.

According to the secretary, the government has launched a military offensive in Darfur and the security situation is deteriorating. The violence has left hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children stranded in camps without access to new supplies of food, water and medicines because international aid workers cannot reach them.

"For these people, and for so many others, our support is truly a matter of life or death," Rice said

at the opening of the 90-minute meeting.

While the United States, the United Nations and other donors are increasing aid, without greater security and stability the humanitarian effort "cannot and will not succeed," the secretary said.

Khartoum had refused to accept a U.N. peacekeeping force of more than 20,000 troops and police taking over from the African Union to provide security.

Rice said the intention of the international community "is not to impinge upon Sudan's sovereignty" by sending in U.N. peacekeepers. "But let there be no doubt about our resolve. As President Bush said on Tuesday, 'If the Sudanese Government does not approve the peacekeeping force quickly, the United Nations must find a way to act,'" she said.

Afterward, Rice said she believes there would be "maximum effort" by those at the meeting to pressure Sudan to accept the U.N. force. However, she added, "there are other measures at the disposal of the international community should we not be able to get the agreement of Sudan."

Briefing journalists after the meeting, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer said that there was unanimous agreement on the need for the transition to a U.N. force, and the group focused on diplomatic efforts to win Sudan's acceptance.

"Every country underscored the unacceptability of the situation . . . and that we need to work together, intensify our diplomacy to

convince President (Omar) al-Bashir to allow the U.N. transition to take place, and that we should work very much in support of the African Union both in terms of its peacekeeping forces but also its diplomatic efforts to try to bring pressure to bear on President Bashir," Frazer said.

ONE LAST DIPLOMATIC EFFORT

The AU decision to stay in Darfur until the end of the year instead of leaving October 1 should be seen as an opportunity "to give one last diplomatic effort" to convincing al-Bashir of the necessity of the transition, the assistant secretary said.

There was no discussion of "whether there would be greater pressure in sanctions or whether there would be greater pressure in incentives," Frazer said.

Andrew Natsios, President Bush's special envoy for Sudan, said that despite public comments by al-Bashir, there were enough indications from Sudan "to work with in terms of fashioning some kind of compromise."

Natsios said that "a number of things [are] going on right now" but refused to discuss them saying "there is some time for public statements, some time for quiet diplomacy."

Planning and securing commitments of troops and equipment for the U.N. force must continue in parallel with diplomacy, Natsios also said. "If we do these [things] sequentially, then we'll be here forever. And people are dying now . . . we need to resolve this now."

(Continued on page 23)

U.S. Condemns Zimbabwe's Denial of Entry for Black Trade Unionists

Washington -- The State Department has denounced the government of Zimbabwe's last-minute denial of entry to a delegation from the U.S. Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU). The American union representatives were scheduled to meet with government officials as well as nongovernmental organizations.

The action, which was taken despite the fact that the delegation had proper visas, comes after the "brutal suppression" of a peaceful demonstration of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions, the State Department said September 22.

Zimbabwe has been cited in the State Department's annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for its repression of workers rights.

In its most recent report, released March 8, the State Department pointed to a host of blatant human rights violations, including "restrictions on freedom of speech, press, academic freedom, peaceful assembly, association, and movement ... and harassment and interference with labor organizations critical of government policies and attempts to supplant legitimate labor leaders with hand-picked supporters."

Although Zimbabwean law provides for worker rights and union organization, for example, the report documents numerous instances of harassment and physical attacks on union members as well as severe restrictions on the ability of unions to strike or bargain effectively.

The CBTU, founded in 1972, has more than 50 U.S. chapters and one in Canada; it is open only to active or retired members of labor union organizations. More than 50 American and international unions are now represented among its members, the CBTU says.

According to the CBTU Web site, the organization seeks to:

- Improve economic development and employment opportunities for black workers;
- Work within the framework of the trade union movement to provide a voice and vehicle for greater black and minority participation;
- Increase union involvement in voter registration, voter education and voter turnout projects;
- Organize unorganized workers;
- Actively support civil rights and civic groups working to improve

living and working conditions in the black community; and

- Increase effective political alliances between labor, churches and the general community.

For more information on U.S. policy, see Africa (<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/>).

The text (<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2006/73003.htm>) of the statement and the report (<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2005/61600.htm>) on Zimbabwe's human rights conditions can be found on the State Department Web site.

More information (<http://www.cbtu.org/>) about the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists is available on the organization's Web site.

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U. S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)



Members of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions hold banners advocating the scrapping of taxes on pension benefits, 2005. Leaders of the trade union in Zimbabwe called on the government to respect human rights and review the minimum wage. (File photo; AP Images)

Remote Senegal Island Welcomes Safe Drinking Water

Abdou Diatta has a new task on Senegal's remote island of Carabane. He guards the pump that brings safe drinking water to residents of the former Casamance region's colonial capital. From morning to night, he opens the gate and unlocks the pump to allow people to fill their buckets and bottles. Some stop by just for a drink. It is hard for people here to believe that this water will not make them sick.

For decades, the 500 people living on Carabane Island -- an old stop-over along a slave trade route to the Americas -- have brought drinking water over from the mainland. Motorized canoes, called pirogues, hauled it in from Elinkine, a small town about a half hour away. Elinkine's clean water supply was a result of assistance from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), which helped rehabilitate the town's two wells. For the people of Carabane, water carried over to the island costs 60 cents for 20 liters -- or about \$35 a month for a family of 10. Rice farmers and fishermen could not afford this, so they chose to risk getting intestinal diseases and other illnesses from contaminated local water. And many did.

Village chief Ibrahima Gueye was one of them. He had searched for solutions to the water problem for a long time when he learned of a USAID project for training local technicians and craftsmen to manufacture pumps. After raising some funds, he hired some of these technicians to construct a pump for the community. A month

later they installed a pump they made from an old motor scooter wheel, plastic pipes and other locally available parts.

"Since we've had this pump, diseases related to contaminated water have disappeared and potable water is available for all," said Gueye, who added that getting the



Binta Seck, right, fills her water container at the end of a day in the rice fields.

"I'm very proud of this pump. Before, my family couldn't afford to buy water from the mainland, but now we have good, clean water -- for free. My family comes here to fill up every day, and we've never had a stomach ache drinking this water," said Binta Seck, a mother of six.

Photo: USAID/Richard Nyberg

pump built and installed has been his greatest success as a village chief.

Water samples were sent to Dakar and France for testing and the results confirmed the water's safety.

The pump is so popular that the good news traveled swiftly by pirogue to the nearby islands of Diogu , Kassel, Saloulou and Niomoune, which have requested the locally produced pumps. The craftsmen have constructed and sold 90 pumps and 100 tube wells since 2004, benefiting more than 7,000 people. With their new know-how, local manufacturers are helping every day to deliver a potable water supply for Senegalese villages.

"I'm very proud of this pump. Before, my family couldn't afford to buy water from the mainland, but now we have good, clean water -- for free. My family comes here to fill up every day, and we've never had a stomach ache drinking this water," said Binta Seck, a mother of six.

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

State's Yamamoto Cites U.S. Strategic Partnership . . .

(Continued from page 1)

cle (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfileenglish&y=2006&m=July&x=20060731174731esnamfuk0.301037>).

Yamamoto told the Senate panel that at a time when the United States was pressed to furnish troops for the global War on Terror, Ethiopia is "a full participant in the President's East Africa Counter-Terrorism Initiative, and works closely with the United States and other partners in the region to fight terrorism."

It is also "the world's sixth largest troop contributor to peacekeeping operations, promoting regional stability," he added.

Still, "Ethiopia remains mired in a decadelong border dispute with Eritrea and faces difficult and pressing challenges at home" such as poverty and problems with political openness, Yamamoto said. These are very complex issues to tackle, but at least everyone is listening and dialogue is taking place, he said.

"Prime Minister Meles Zenawi has articulated the need for poverty

eradication, job creation, and economic development. Promoting education and expanding access to quality health care are also primary goals of the Ethiopian government, which we share and are committed to supporting," he said.

In light of the Ethiopian government's harsh reaction to demonstrators following the May 2005 parliamentary elections, Yamamoto said, "the United States remains deeply concerned about Ethiopia's domestic political environment."

If confirmed by the full Senate, Yamamoto said he would work with Ethiopians to promote "an open and transparent electoral process, inclusion of all parts of society in the democratic process, engagement of all opposition parties to ensure full and dynamic participation in political decision-making, tolerance of dissent, an independent judiciary with transparent and accountable judicial processes, the consistent protection of human rights, and a free and responsible press."

An obstacle to progress, he told the Senate panel, was the ongoing trial of more than 100 opposition leaders and their supporters, civil society leaders, and journalists,

which "continues to generate concerns about the future of Ethiopia's democratic development."

On the economic front, Yamamoto said he would continue to press for foreign assistance that already amounts to hundreds of millions of dollars in humanitarian, emergency, and development aid to Ethiopia each year.

"Our assistance aims to spur economic development, improve the availability and quality of health care, prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, bolster education, and promote democratization and good governance in Ethiopia. We need to carefully coordinate in the inter-agency process and with other donors, to ensure that we are using these limited funds effectively and productively," he told the lawmakers.

For more information on U.S. policy, see Africa (<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/>).

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)♦

2008 Diversity Visa Lottery Program . . .

(Continued from page 1)

be made available to persons from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States.

The annual DV program makes permanent residence visas available to persons meeting the simple, but strict, eligibility requirements. A computer-generated ran-

dom lottery drawing chooses selectees for diversity visas. The visas, however, are distributed among six geographic regions with a greater number of visas going to regions with lower rates of immigration, and with no visas going to nationals of countries sending more than 50,000 immigrants to the United States over the period of the past five years. Within each

region, no one country may receive more than seven percent of the available Diversity Visas in any one year.

For detailed information on DV-2008, please visit our website at http://ethiopia.usembassy.gov/dv_2008.html.♦

Initiative Aims To Help Millions in Africa Access Clean Water

By Kathryn McConnell
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The United States is partnering with two major non-profit organizations to help bring clean drinking water to millions of people in sub-Saharan Africa.

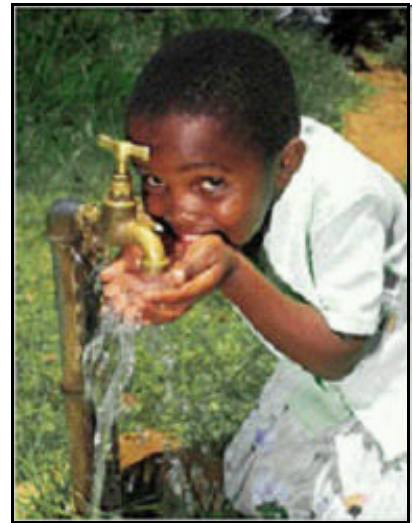
In announcing the public-private partnership September 20 in New York, first lady Laura Bush called for other partners to join the effort to help up to 10 million people access safe water by 2010 through the installation of 4,000 pumps in schools and communities.

Bush spoke at the annual meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative, held in conjunction with the opening of the 61st session of the United Nations General Assembly. Joining Bush at the launch of the

initiative were leaders of the two partner organizations, Case Foundation and the MCJ Foundation.

The United States is committing \$10 million toward a goal of \$60 million to fund the initiative, called the PlayPumps Alliance, Bush said. The alliance will connect playground "merry-go-rounds" to water pumps and storage tanks, using the energy of children's play to turn pump wheels and bring clean water above ground.

Bush said access to clean water is essential to both health and education. Without clean water, she said, people suffering from HIV and AIDS cannot take needed medications safely and their weak immune systems are exposed to water-borne illnesses. Also, water-related illnesses keep children from



A boy in South Africa drinks clean water from a communal faucet. (USAID photo)

attending school. In particular, the daily task of finding clean water

(Continued on page 23)

Kenyan Government, U.S. Military Build School in Lamu, Kenya

Communities Come Together to Celebrate New School in Lamu, Kenya

By Chief Mass Communications Specialist Robert Palomares
U.S. Navy

11 September 2006

Lamu, Kenya -- An explosion of color and sound celebrated the dedication of the new Mokowe Secondary School, which was built in cooperation between the Kenyan government, the U.S. Embassy and the Civil Affairs Team, part of the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa. Local residents, waving small

American and Kenyan flags, erupted in traditional songs and dances, accompanied by drumming. Drummers used plastic containers, metal plates, as well as conventional drums.

Construction on the school was originally started in 1997 and was halted briefly because of the lack of funds. But the project was re-generated in 2003, when two classrooms were completed.

In 2004, CJTF-HOA's Civil Affairs team accepted the school dis-

tricts' proposal to complete four classrooms, administration offices, two laboratory classrooms and toilets for students and teachers.

The following year, two dormitories and four additional classrooms were built. In addition, two 20,000-liter water tanks were built into the school compound.

Currently, there are 86 students enrolled in the school with a faculty of four.

(Continued on page 9)

State Department Launches Global Cultural Initiative

By Michael Jay Friedman
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- At a White House ceremony featuring performances by young Azeri and Canadian musicians, first lady Laura Bush introduced the Global Cultural Initiative (GCI), an effort to enhance and expand the United States' cultural diplomacy.

Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Karen Hughes represented the Department of State, which will partner with public and private cultural organizations to launch the initiative.

State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announced the department's four initial GCI partnerships September 25. Working with ECA, the National Endowment for the Arts will initiate a series of international literary exchanges. By sponsoring translations and publications, the program will afford Americans and readers in other nations access to the best of each other's literature.

A partnership with the National Endowment for the Humanities will continue President Bush's We the People initiative, which welcomes kindergarten through grade 12 teachers from throughout the world to weeklong Landmarks Summer Institutes. Participants visit historic sites and together with American participants explore U.S. democratic principles.

A major international film and filmmaker exchange sponsored by the American Film Institute Partnership will bring together American and foreign filmmakers to share their motion pictures with each other's audiences, at AFI-Fest in Los An-

geles and at other American and international film festivals.

A new cooperative initiative with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts will allow overseas institutions to tap into



Karen Hughes
Under Secretary of State for Public
Diplomacy and Public Affairs
(AP Photo)

U.S. expertise in arts management and performing arts training. This partnership will place special emphasis on inclusiveness and will promote programs that feature the work of disabled artists.

The first lady recalled that cultural diplomacy paid mutual dividends during the Cold War, when the Soviet and American peoples' shared love of jazz proved valuable in reducing tensions between the two nations.

Today, "art has the same power to reduce tensions and to strengthen alliances," she said. By "enjoying each other's literature, music, films and visual arts," Americans can deepen their friendships with

other peoples and strengthen ties with their countries.

Appropriations for cultural diplomacy programs have more than tripled since 2001, according to a State Department announcement of the initiative.

Hughes said civilized peoples of all nations and faiths treasure their artistic, cultural and historic heritages. She said that these common values were not shared by violent extremists like those who bombed the Golden Mosque in Samarra, Iraq, in February, or those who ordered the demolition of the 1,800-year-old and 1,500-year-old Buddha statues of Bamiyan, Afghanistan, in 2001.

Hughes praised cultural exchanges as embodying the spirit of partnership and respect that is at the heart of public diplomacy. "The arts -- visual and performing -- express the full range of human experience and remind us that despite differences of language and race, politics and policy, our human experience is a shared one. The arts resonate in the hearts and souls of people everywhere."

The full text (<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2006/73078.htm>) of the announcement of the initiative is available on the State Department Web site, as is a fact sheet (<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/scp/2006/72972.htm>) on the initiative.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

National Book Festival A Day for Book Lovers

Washington -- The National Book Festival, held in Washington D.C. each year since 2001, is a welcome and prominent addition to the nation's growing roster of book-themed events.

Organized and sponsored by the Library of Congress, the festival allows the public to meet favorite authors, preview new titles and mingle with other book lovers.

Free and open to all, the festival spreads over seven blocks of the National Mall, the broad, grassy

thoroughfare extending from the U.S. Capitol to the Washington Monument and lined by the Smithsonian Institution museums and national memorials.

Thematic pavilions present authors from popular literary genres like History & Biography, Fiction & Fantasy, Poetry, Children's Literature, and Teens & Children.

The Library of Congress Pavilion features materials from the Veterans History Project, an ongoing effort to document and preserve the

experiences of Americans who served their nation in the military, while the Pavilion of the States offers information about local reading and literacy programs.

More information about the National Book Festival is available on the Library of Congress Web site (<http://www.loc.gov/bookfest/index.html>).

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U. S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)



2005 National Book Festival.- People gathered in front of book festival pavilions with Capitol in the background.

President Says World Must Support Muslim Moderates

The United States has chosen to stand with moderates and reformers in the broader Middle East in an effort to create a world in which "the voices of moderation are empowered, and where the extremists are marginalized," President Bush said.

Speaking in his weekly radio address to the American people September 23, the president said every nation must make a choice: It can either support moderates and reformers or "yield the future

to the terrorists and extremists." He also said the international community must make a "straightforward choice" between allowing the Middle East to continue on a course that will lead to "terrorist states and radical dictators armed with nuclear weapons," and preventing that outcome by "confronting the ideology of hate and helping the people of the Middle East build a future of hope."

Bush said all civilized nations, "especially those in the Muslim

world," are "bound together in this struggle between moderation and extremism," and that through international cooperation it will be possible to "roll back this grave threat to our way of life," help the inhabitants of the Middle East "claim their freedom," and create a "safer and more hopeful world."

The president recalled his meetings during the U.N. General Assembly and at the White House with moderate Muslim leaders such as Iraq's

(Continued on page 10)

Kenyan Government, U.S. Military Build School in . . .

(Continued from page 6)

"We appreciate what the American government has donated to the community, which approximates 21 million Kenyan Shillings," said Abdi Juano, chairman of the Mokowe Secondary School.

"This is once again another big and commendable project undertaken by the government of the United States of America through its local embassy and Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa," said Omar Mohamed Famau, chairman of the county council of Lamu. "Education has always been the key to development of any nation and this is a big step towards development of Lamu and our county."

"Allow me to thank the American people for their tireless efforts in assisting Lamu people in various development activities since 2003. We request this continues," Famau said.

"God has graced us with a beautiful day to celebrate the completion of the Mokowe Secondary School," said U.S. Navy Capt. Stephen Johnson, Chief of Staff for Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa. "This project represents teamwork between Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, the government of Kenya and the citizens of Mokowe, a team who worked together to complete this wonderful school."

This project, he said, is one of more than 25 projects that CJTF-

HOA has completed in Kenya. The project represents an investment of more than 22 million Shillings, a long-term investment in the education of and the future of the children of Mokowe.

"Education is central to much that is important," Johnson told the crowd of more than 100 local residents. "Education makes our communities and nations strong and prosperous, it increases opportunity, it helps build successful families and responsible citizens, it is the key to our children realizing their full potential, and education is the key to a secure future."

He stressed that continued teamwork is necessary to provide and obtain the best possible education. Teachers, parents, students must all work together to reach this goal. "I am confident that these new facilities will inspire and foster exactly that," he added.

"I know that the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa stands committed with Kenya and our other coalition partners to foster regional peace and stability and give these children the opportunity to use their education to build a secure and prosperous future," Johnson said.

After the speeches, local residents danced and sang in celebration of the new school.

The above article was published on September 11 on the Web site of the Combined Joint Task Force—Horn of Africa, a unit of U.S. Cen-



Villagers from a remote area in Kenya dance in celebration before starting the construction of a new school. (State Dept./Janine Sides)

tral Command that conducts operations and training to help host nations combat terrorism in order to establish a secure environment and enable regional stability. There are no republication restrictions.

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U. S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

Rice Dismisses Iran's Conditions on Nuclear Talks

By Judy Aita
Washington File United Nations
Correspondent

United Nations – The United States rejects Iran's conditions on the suspension of its nuclear enrichment program, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said following a Security Council meeting.

Rice said that there could be no new conditions added to those set by six major countries -- China, France, Germany, Russia, United Kingdom, and the United States -- for negotiations on a package of economic and technological incentives in exchange for Iran's ending its enrichment activities.

A July 31 Security Council resolution backed the group's position and gave Iran until August 31 to stop enrichment or face sanctions.

The terms here are very clear," Rice told reporters September 21 in New York. "Iran has been told

by the international community through a Security Council resolution, that they should suspend and if they suspend the negotiations can begin."



Dr. Condoleezza Rice
U.S. Secretary of State

"I don't think we need any further conditionality. We need to have a suspension of enrichment and reprocessing and then we can move to full-fledged negotiations," she told journalists after attending a Security Council meeting on the Israeli-Palestinian situation during the opening of the 61st General Assembly.

Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadi-Nejad, also at the U.N. headquarters for the General Assembly, said at a press conference that his country was prepared to negotiate a suspension if it received fair guarantees. He said he was prepared to meet the council's demand but gave no time frame.

Rice said that the six nations are "committed to full implementation of [Security Council] Resolution 1696."

"We can either begin negotiations or go to the Security Council," the secretary said.

A transcript (<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2006/72954.htm>) of the secretary of state's remarks is available on the State Department's Web site.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

President Says World Must Support Muslim . . .

(Continued from page 8)

President Jalal Talebani and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

"By supporting moderate leaders such as President Abbas, the United States can help Israelis and Palestinians build a more hopeful future and achieve the peace we all want in the Holy Land," he said.

He described Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf and Afghan

President Hamid Karzai as two leaders who are "working to defeat the forces of terrorism and extremism," and said he plans to meet with both of them together at the White House September 27.

An audio link (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/09/20060923.a>. ram) to the president's remarks is available on the White House Web site.

Following is the transcript:

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
Saturday, September 23, 2006

RADIO ADDRESS BY THE
PRESIDENT TO THE NATION

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. This week, I traveled to New York City to address the United Nations

(Continued on page 11)

President Says World Must Support Muslim . . .

(Continued from page 10)

General Assembly. In my speech to the leaders gathered there, I spoke about a more hopeful world that is within our reach -- a world beyond terror, where ordinary men and women are free to determine their own destiny, where the voices of moderation are empowered, and where the extremists are marginalized by the peaceful majority.

I said that every nation must make a choice: We can support the moderates and reformers working for change across the broader Middle East, or we can yield the future to the terrorists and extremists. America has made its choice - we're standing with the moderates and reformers.

In New York, I met with two such leaders, President Talabani of Iraq and President Abbas of the Palestinian Authority. In my meeting with President Talabani, I told him that America will continue to support Iraq's democratic government as it makes the tough decisions necessary to bring security and prosperity to the Iraqi people. I assured President Talabani that America will not abandon the Iraqi people in their struggle to defeat the terrorists and build a free society in the heart of the Middle East.

In my meeting with President Abbas, I told him that America remains committed to the vision of two democratic states, Israel and Palestine, living side-by-side in peace and security. President Abbas shares this goal. He's working hard to oppose violent extremists and build a society in which the Palestinian people can raise their children in peace and hope.

By supporting moderate leaders such as President Abbas, the United States can help Israelis and Palestinians build a more hopeful future and achieve the peace we all want in the Holy Land.

Next week, I will host a meeting at the White House with two courageous leaders, President Karzai of Afghanistan and President Musharraf of Pakistan. These two leaders



President George W. Bush

are working to defeat the forces of terrorism and extremism. Under President Musharraf, Pakistan is siding with the forces of freedom and moderation and helping to defend the civilized world. Many Pakistani forces have given their lives in the fight against terrorists. President Musharraf understands the stakes in the war on terror because the extremists have tried more than once to assassinate him. They know he's a threat to their aspirations because he's working to build modern democratic institutions that could provide an alternative to radicalism. And it is in America's interest to help him succeed.

In Afghanistan, President Karzai continues the work of building a safer and brighter future for his nation. Today, forces from more than 40 countries, including members of the NATO Alliance, are bravely serving side-by-side with

Afghan forces. These forces are fighting the extremists who want to bring down the free government that the people of Afghanistan have established. America and its allies will continue to stand with the people of Afghanistan as they defend their democratic gains. Working with President Karzai's government, we will defeat the enemies of a free Afghanistan and help the Afghan people build a nation that will never again oppress them or be a safe haven for terrorists.

In the broader Middle East, the world faces a straightforward choice: We can allow that region to continue on the course it was headed before September the 11th, and a generation from now our children will face a region dominated by terrorist states and radical dictators armed with nuclear weapons; or we can stop that from happening by confronting the ideology of hate and helping the people of the Middle East build a future of hope. All civilized nations, especially those in the Muslim world, are bound together in this struggle between moderation and extremism. By working together, we will roll back this grave threat to our way of life, we will help the people of the Middle East claim their freedom, and we will leave a safer and more hopeful world for our children and grandchildren.

Thank you for listening.

*(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U. S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)**

Bush Says U.S., Pakistan Collaborating and Strategizing Against Extremists

By Stephen Kaufman
Washington File White House Correspondent

Washington -- President Bush said he and the Pakistani government share a joint interest in bringing members of al-Qaida, including Osama bin Laden, to justice and he welcomed discussions between Pakistan and India aimed at resolving long-standing issues between the two countries, such as the dispute over Kashmir.

Speaking at the White House September 22 with Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf, the president said he had received "a very interesting briefing" from the Pakistani leader concerning his country's strategy to "strengthen governance and to promote economic development" in Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas, where al-Qaida and Taliban members are believed to be located.

Musharraf said contrary to some media reports, the recent deal reached between his government and tribal elders in North Waziristan "is not to deal with the Taliban; it is actually to fight the Taliban," and is part of a "holistic approach" aimed at fighting terrorism in the tribal areas of Pakistan.

Musharraf said the deal signed by the tribal elders prohibits al-Qaida and Taliban activity in the tribal areas and across Pakistan's border with Afghanistan, adding that, "I know that [President Bush] is satisfied with that deal. And maybe this shows the light or the way forward for bringing peace to the

region." (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?w=washtfileenglish&y=2006&m=September&x=20060906130637eafas0.2072565>)).

Bush said he has had a close working relationship with the Pakistani leader for more than five years, and that when Musharraf "looks me in the eye and says the tribal deal is intended to reject the Talibanization of the people and

Echoing Bush, Musharraf said there is "total coordination at the intelligence level between the two forces, there is coordination at the operational level, at the strategic level, even at the tactical level. So therefore, we are working together, and when the situation arises, we need to take the right decision to strike."

Musharraf affirmed the strength of the broader U.S.-Pakistani relationship and cooperation in the War on Terror.

"Bilaterally, we reinforced our desire to have this relationship on a long-term basis, broad-based, and a strategic relationship. ... It has its political and diplomatic aspects, which we reinforced, and then our desire to fight terrorism and succeed against terrorism," he said.

Bush also welcomed discussions in Havana between Musharraf and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, saying it is "an indication that there is desire at the leadership level" to solve the long-standing problem of Kashmir.

The president said the United States wants to help the two countries in their efforts, as well as to help Israel and the Palestinians find a resolution to their dispute, and offered to be actively involved or to step aside, depending upon the parties' desires. But he said the United States cannot force an agreement for either conflict.

(Continued on page 15)



President Bush and Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf hold a press conference at the White House September 22. (AP Images)

that there won't be a Taliban and there won't be al-Qaida, I believe him."

He added that the two countries are collaborating and strategizing together to bring bin Laden and other al-Qaida leaders to justice.

"We're on the hunt together. It's in the president's interest that al-Qaida be brought to justice. And it's in our interests. And we collaborate and we strategize and we talk a lot about how best to do this," he said.

U.S., Europe Working Together To Combat Drug Trafficking

Washington -- Illicit drugs are a global menace, and the United States and Europe are working together to curb the increased flow of these drugs from South America to Europe, says Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Chief of Operations Michael Braun.

In September 21 testimony before two House subcommittees, Braun said that since the early 1990s, Europe has experienced a significant increase in the amount of cocaine trafficked from South America. DEA investigations have shown that the same Colombian organizations that are smuggling cocaine to Europe are also smuggling to the United States, so it is "vitally important" that the United States and Europe coordinate their counternarcotics efforts, he added.

To this end, Braun said, the DEA has forged a strong and cooperative relationship with its European counterparts, maintaining offices in 11 European countries with approximately 60 DEA employees. As an example of this cooperation, Braun pointed to Operation Twin Ocean, a three-year effort. And as part of this effort, he said, the DEA worked with law enforcement agencies in Colombia, Panama, Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela, Spain and Great Britain to arrest more than 100 individuals, and seize more than 47 tons of cocaine and nearly \$70 million in assets in May.

Braun explained that the DEA has a particularly close relationship

with the United Kingdom's Serious Organized Crime Agency (SOCA), with numerous ongoing joint operations as well as the recent completion of Operation White Dollar. As part of this operation, the DEA and SOCA worked with the U.S.

special agents with the Royal Dutch National Police National Crime Squad in the Netherlands, and said the DEA and Spanish law enforcement also continuously are working on joint investigations into cocaine smuggling.



Michael Braun
Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
Chief of Operations

These and other DEA's collaborative efforts with its European counterparts will continue as part of the Bush administration's strategy to address the global menace of illicit drugs, Braun said.

"We recognize that inter-agency and multinational cooperation are essential elements of the president's National Drug Control Strategy, and these cooperative efforts are the best way for us to dismantle and disrupt international drug-trafficking organizations," he said. "DEA will continue to work tirelessly to enhance the effectiveness of our enforcement operations in order to curtail the flow of drugs to both the United States and Europe."

The text (<http://www.dea.gov/pubs/cngrtest/ct092106.html>) of Braun's statement is available on the DEA Web site.

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U. S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

Internal Revenue Service as well as Colombian and Canadian officials to dismantle an international money-laundering ring that laundered millions of Colombian drug dollars in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. The operation resulted in 34 arrests and the forfeiture of \$20 million in laundered funds, Braun said.

The DEA is also active in other parts of Europe, Braun said. He pointed out that the DEA has two

U.S. Researcher Urges Measurable Information War on Extremism

By Vince Crawley
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- A U.S. government analyst proposes using Cold War-style information and containment strategies to prevent the spread of Islamic extremism, and recommends immediate action to start gathering data on public diplomacy efforts in Muslim communities worldwide.

The world is at "a major cross-roads in history," said Raphael Perl, a specialist in international affairs for the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service (CRS), which provides analytical reports for the U.S. Congress.

"The effectiveness of our efforts in combating extremist ideologies may, to a large extent, shape the future political and economic landscape of the world," Perl said in a September 15 conference at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies in Garmisch-Partenkirche, Germany.

"If we fail to confront and contain the threat" of extremist ideologies, "a new intolerant, radical, violence-prone political order may become the democratically elected norm in many important countries," Perl warned. The theme of the Marshall Center conference was Countering Ideological Support for Terrorism. Perl stressed that some of his views included statements of personal opinion and independence research that do not necessarily reflect the viewpoint of the U.S. government.

The Bush administration has set forth the concept of "pre-emptive strikes against terrorism," Perl said. He added, "We need pre-

emptive strikes in an ideological sense as well."

He recommended an immediate program to start identifying public diplomacy programs and developing meaningful ways to measure their effect, resources and personnel.

Examples of measurable resources and progress include:

The number of U.S. government employees overseas who are fully fluent in the languages of their host countries. "When I say fluent," Perl said, "I mean as fluent in that foreign language as Adel Al Jubair, the Saudi political adviser, is in English -- fluent enough to present or debate points of view on television against charismatic ideological adversaries."

The numbers and grades of U.S. officials in the field whose specific duties include ideological counter-measures.

The funding and staff levels of public diplomacy missions.

The number of radio and television stations "which broadcast our message of freedom and tolerance, or which jam the broadcasts of extremist stations," Perl said.

The number and intensity of extremist statements in a representative sample of mass media and in sermons at selected mosques. "If we don't have enough staffing even to make these measurements

due to existing workload," Perl said, "that is a clear indication at the outset of a resource shortage."

In addition to measurable numbers, he called for ensuring that those who deal with foreign publics have been trained to counter extremist messages.

"Have our field officers studied the doctrine of Islamist extremism to the same extent that such officers previously studied communist ideology during the Cold War?" Perl asked. "Can officers debate extremist views by quoting the



The George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies is nestled among the Bavarian Alps in Garmisch, Germany, about three hours south of Munich. *Photo courtesy Marshall Center*

Quran as easily as they quote sound bites from the press guidance?" For example, Perl said, U.S. officials could debate whether terrorist leaders have adhered to the Quran's Sura 4, Verse 92, which discusses the payment of compensation when innocent Muslims mistakenly are killed.

"To be successful at public diplomacy, we need to offer a 'competitive product,'" Perl said. During the Cold War, "the West was united in opposition to totali-

Bush Says U.S., Pakistan Collaborating and Strategizing . . .

(Continued from page 12)

"We can help create the conditions for peace to occur. We can lay out vision. We can talk to world leaders, and we do. We can provide aid to help institutional building so that a democracy can flourish. But ultimately peace, long-standing peace, depends upon the will of leaders," Bush said.

Asked about international Muslim anger at the United States, as well as at the Vatican following Pope Benedict's comments on Islam, Bush repeated that the United States "respects Islam," and has many Muslim citizens living in peace and equality as "proud Americans."

He said many in the Muslim world are subjected to "unbelievable propaganda" directed against western countries and moderate Muslims that is designed to in-

flame passions and incite violence and "create conditions where terror is justified." He called on Muslims to stand up to it.

"America respects Islam," Bush said. "We don't respect people who kill in the name of Islam to achieve political objectives like the terrorists do."

Bush cited the \$500 million worth of U.S. assistance in the aftermath of Pakistan's 2005 earthquake as an indication of U.S. intentions. (See U.S. Response to the Earthquake in South Asia (http://usinfo.state.gov/sa/south_asia/earthquake.html).

"Our nation was proud to support you, Mr. President, because we care when we see people suffering," he told Musharraf.

Extremists "love to say" that the War on Terror is a war against the

faith of Islam. "I can't think of anything more false," Bush said, and called on Muslims around the world to "reject the extremist propaganda that is spreading in many cases absolute lies about the intentions of the United States."

The transcript (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/09/20060922.html>) of President Bush and President Musharraf's remarks is available on the White House Web site.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)♦

U.S. Researcher Urges Measurable Information War on . . .

(Continued from page 14)

tarian oppression" and "some people were willing to risk their lives to get to the West not just for the economic opportunity but for freedom." However, he said, the cultural circumstances are quite different in the struggle against extremism.

The adherents of Islamist extremism "abhor rather than admire Western culture and morals," he

said. "A critical component of any strategy is to encourage debate within the ranks of Islam and within intellectual communities in Islamic populations over the wisdom or 'correctness' of radical extremist ideologies which claim their basis in religion."

Perl also said "academic discussions concerning the nature of programs and measurements [of public diplomacy efforts] have gone on too long already. There is no fur-

ther benefit to further delay and, indeed, every reason to forge ahead as soon as possible. We can and should begin collecting data immediately."

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)♦

Pakistan's Musharraf Expresses Thanks for U.S. Earthquake Relief

By Lea Terhune
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – Help from the United States, especially Chinook helicopters, was invaluable in conveying relief supplies to devastated areas of Pakistan following a massive October 2005 earthquake, Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf told an audience in Washington, September 22.

Musharraf, addressed students at George Washington University, expressed his "extreme gratitude to the U.S. government and the people for having supported us in such a big way in the relief operation." He described the stages of emergency rescue and relief, operations that involve medical care, provision of food, water and shelter in high elevations where snowfall is heavy. Assistance from the United States to convey aid supplies received from around the world was critical, Musharraf said, particularly the U.S. Army's Chinook helicopters. "The Chinooks of U.S. played the most prominent role. If the Chinooks were not there, we could not have taken all this stuff forward from bases to ... the people." He added that the best field hospital in the affected area was set up by the United States.

On September 21, Musharraf presided at a special awards ceremony at the Embassy of Pakistan to recognize Americans who were part of the relief effort, including United States Agency for International Development (USAID) officials Lisa Chiles and Bill Berger, U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Michael A. LeFever and representatives of Citigroup, Xerox, United Parcel

Service, General Electric Co., Pfizer Inc. and several other corporate donors. He also presented an "unsung hero" award to two American children, in gratitude for the contributions of American school children to the relief effort. One, 12-year-old Pakistani-American Adnan Ali, from Grand Rapids, Michigan, raised more than \$10,000.

The 7.6-magnitude earthquake that hit South Asia on October 8, 2005, killed at least 73,338 people, destroyed entire villages and made nearly 3 million people homeless. The greatest impact was felt in the mountainous Azad Jammu and Kashmir state of Pakistan.

Nearly a year later, the focus remains on reconstruction and rehabilitation, in which USAID continues to play a part. The United States pledged \$510 million in humanitarian and reconstruction aid to South Asia. Through local agencies, food, shelter and other relief commodities were provided to survivors, to help them weather the harsh winter. Since then, USAID has been helping people rebuild stronger, earthquake resistant homes by sponsoring workshops in affected districts to train masons and carpenters in safer building techniques. Collapsing buildings cause most earthquake deaths.

USAID sponsors an information campaign to inform residents of the importance of earthquake-safe construction. "We want all residents to rebuild safely and benefit fully from reconstruction support available," USAID Pakistan Director Jonathan Addleton said when

the campaign was announced in Islamabad, Pakistan, in August. "Getting the right information into the hands of all residents who need it will speed along the rebuilding process and improve the quality of rebuilt homes."

Farmers in the Kaghan, Siran and Konch valleys of the North West Frontier Province and Bagh Tehsil in AJK are expecting a good maize harvest thanks to seeds funded and obtained by USAID working with its partners the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and the American Refugee Committee. More than 18,000 farmers who lost crops and equipment in 2005 were assisted.

U.S. reconstruction grants in Pakistan are aimed at rebuilding and improving health and education infrastructure in the earthquake-hit region. Three-year and four-year programs also will expand economic opportunities by repairing farm and livestock equipment, rebuilding shelters and restoring crops. Grants worth \$70 million recently were assigned for these purposes to local nongovernmental organizations.

For more information, see U.S. Response to the Earthquake in South Asia (http://usinfo.state.gov/sa/south_asia/earthquake.html).

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)♦

U.S. Concerned by Thai Council's Limits on Freedom of Expression

By Stephen Kaufman
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The Bush administration remains concerned over the decision by the Thai ruling council, which seized power September 19 in a military coup, to limit freedom of expression, and calls on the council to honor its stated commitment to return Thailand to the civilian control "as quickly as possible."

Speaking at the State Department September 25, deputy spokesman Tom Casey said the ruling council has decided "to limit some issues regarding freedom of expression, both in terms of political gatherings as well as media. ... We're concerned, first and foremost, about restrictions on civil liberties."

The military, which ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and his government, reportedly pledged to name a new civilian prime minister within two weeks, but said elections -- originally scheduled for November 2006 -- would be delayed until October 2007.

Casey said the United States would like to see the ruling council honor its commitment to name a civilian prime minister within two weeks, but "[i]n terms of elections and election timetable We think that that should be accomplished more quickly" than one year.

"[U]ltimately, it's through holding elections that we believe you can return Thailand to a situation where you clearly have a government that represents the will of the people," he said. "Anything

that happens in between that time
needs to be done in accordance
with Thai law."

Asked about the ruling council's plan to set up a probe to investigate allegations of corruption by members of Thaksin's administration, Casey said the Bush administration would not be in favor of "any kind of movement that was



Map of Thailand

politically motivated rather than in accordance with the rule of law."

However, "things that are done ... in accordance with Thai law and in accordance with those procedures are things that should happen and will happen," he said.

A senior administration official, speaking on background, said the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok and Am-

bassador Ralph Boyce have been in communication with "pretty much all the players" in Thailand. The official said this includes individuals in the country's political parties; the military, including members of the ruling council; officials in the palace; and members of the opposition.

"The thing that is being pressed home particularly with the ruling council is the need for them to show that they're serious about the commitments that they've made ... to put a civilian prime minister in as quickly as possible, and set up a timetable for elections," the official said.

The senior official repeated the U.S. view that elections "can and should be done sooner than the year that they've laid out."

For more information on U.S. policy, see Democracy (<http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy.html>) and East Asia and the Pacific (<http://usinfo.state.gov/eap/>).

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)♦

U.S. Global Pandemic Assistance Nears \$400 Million

By Charlene Porter
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – The United States is boosting its contributions to the international effort to combat avian and pandemic influenza, bringing U.S. contributions over the past year to \$392 million, according to a September 20 announcement by U.S. Under Secretary for Democracy and Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky.



Paula Dobriansky
U.S. Under Secretary for Democracy and
Global Affairs (AP Photo)

The announcement was made in New York in conjunction with the U.N. General Assembly session one year after President Bush had announced formation of the International Partnership on Avian and Pandemic Influenza (IPAPI) at the

same forum. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/Archive/2005/Sep/14-339908.html>)).

"We need only to look back to the SARS outbreak of three years ago," Dobriansky said, "to understand that the social, economic and political impacts of a virulent flu pandemic could be devastating."

In a statement from Washington, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt also endorsed the early voluntary implementation of the international regulations, and cited other examples of cooperation between the United States and the World Health Organization (WHO) in the global effort against avian and pandemic influenza.

"We are funding the Specimen Transport Fund, managed by the Secretariat of the World Health Organization," Leavitt's statement said. "It is a key innovation in getting samples from affected countries in a timely and secure fashion."

Ninety-three nations have joined IPAPI, along with 20 international organizations.

Dr. David Nabarro, senior U.N. coordinator for avian and human influenza, UNICEF Director Ann Veneman and Dr. David Heymann, director of the communicable dis-

eases cluster at the WHO, joined Dobriansky at the press conference.

INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS

"The World Health Assembly [WHA] has requested that WHO begin implementation of the revised International Health Regulations," Heymann said, "this year for avian influenza and next year for the framework that will involve other diseases as well."

The WHA unanimously adopted the revised regulations in May 2005, and they are scheduled to enter into force in June 2007. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfileenglish&y=2005&m=May&x=20050527145138cmretr op0.5953028&t=xarchives/xarchitem.html>)).

The broadened purpose, according to WHO, is to "prevent, protect against, control and provide a public health response to the international spread of disease and which avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade."

Heymann said a group of experts will meet for the first time September 25, forming a task force on avian influenza as part of the international health regulation framework.

The group will review evidence bases on containing outbreaks, stockpiling, global vaccine pan-

(Continued on page 19)

U.S. Global Pandemic Assistance Nears \$400 . . .

(Continued from page 18)

demic planning, and virus information sharing through WHO and other databases, he said.

"WHO is very pleased to be a partner in this larger partnership dealing with preparedness for avian influenza," he said.

NATIONAL PLANS

IPAPI was formed in response to concerns from international health experts that a highly pathogenic avian influenza virus that appeared in Southeast Asia in late 2003 has the potential to trigger a human health pandemic.

The H5N1 virus now has been detected in wild birds or domestic poultry in more than 50 nations.

Human cases of the disease have appeared in 10 countries, causing 144 deaths. In most cases, individual exposure to the disease has been traced to direct contact with sick poultry.

Health authorities warn that if the H5N1 virus were to mutate to become contagious among humans, a global pandemic of human influenza could result, with severe effects on human health, social structures and economic activity.

With the support of IPAPI over the last year, Dobriansky said, more than 175 nations have national plans for combating avian and pandemic influenza.

Animal and human health authorities in only 40 nations had crafted such plans prior to the formation of IPAPI, according to the U.S. State Department's Avian Influenza Action Group.

CONTROLLING DISEASE

In collaboration with international organizations and through its own health and aid agencies, the United States is providing support and technical assistance to dozens of nations to better enable them to contain and control the disease in animal and human populations. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=July&x=20060717162906xmsknabue0.4441754>).)

The U.S. departments of Agriculture, Health and Human Services, Interior and others have deployed scientists, veterinarians, public health experts and emergency response teams to affected and high-risk countries to assist in dealing with actual outbreaks or to help develop plans for potential outbreaks.

U.S. assistance also is being used to help upgrade diagnostic and laboratory capabilities in vulnerable countries, and train animal and human health specialists who will be responsible for responding to outbreaks, according to a U.S. State Department September 20 fact sheet (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=texttransenglish&y=2006&mS>

[epتمبر&x=20060920133153xjsnommis5.720156e-02](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2006/Jun/23-838059.html)). (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2006/Jun/23-838059.html>)).

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has shipped about 93,000 personal protective equipment kits to 66 countries for use by responders in the field in 2006, according to the fact sheet.

That effort continues as USAID works to build a stockpile of 1.5 million personal protective equipment kits, 100 lab kits and 15,000 decontamination kits for deployment as necessary in the event of future avian influenza outbreaks.

For ongoing coverage of the disease and efforts to combat it, see Bird Flu (Avian Influenza) (http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/bird_flu.html).

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>.)

U.S. Announces Effort To Treat Neglected Tropical Diseases

By Howard Cincotta
Washington File Special Correspondent

Washington — The United States has awarded a \$100 million grant to a nonprofit research organization to make existing treatments of prevalent but often neglected tropical diseases more widespread and effective, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced September 22.

Under the USAID grant, the organization RTI International will build on existing successful treatment programs for these diseases by scaling them up to national levels where they can reach as many as 40 million of the world's poorest people over five years, according to USAID.

"This significant investment will improve the lives of millions of people afflicted with disabling conditions through effective, low-cost, mass drug administration and associated education programs," said Richard Greene, USAID Director of the Office of Health, Infectious Disease and Nutrition.

The program will target seven of the most prevalent but neglected tropical diseases: trachoma (blinding eye infection), hookworm, ascaris, trichuris (three soil-transmitted worms), onchocerciasis (river blindness), schistosomiasis (snail fever) and lymphatic filariasis (elephantiasis).

According to USAID, these particular diseases were chosen be-

cause they affect large numbers of people but can be treated effectively through integrated programs using safe and effective drugs that already are available.

The United States is continuing to join with other international partners in addressing the health chal-



lenges of HIV/AIDS and a number of other infectious diseases. For example, President Bush's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief, launched in 2003, is the largest international health initiative dedicated to a single disease in history. This effort is designed to support and strengthen the AIDS-fighting strategies of many nations, including 15 heavily afflicted countries in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. (See fact sheet (<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2006/Feb/02-610769.html>).

In September, one year after formation of the International Partnership on Avian and Pandemic Influenza, the United States boosted its contributions to more than \$390 million for the year. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/>

xarchives/display.html?p=washfileenglish&y=2006&m=September&x=20060920144515cmretrop0.3859827).

Among other recent health initiatives, U.S. government agencies and private-sector organizations are supporting efforts to eradicate polio in remote areas of Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfileenglish&y=2006&m=September&x=20060908150743lcnirellep0.6546289>).

For more information on U.S. policies, see Health (http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/health.html), HIV/AIDS (http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/hiv_aids.html) and Partnership for a Better Life (<http://usinfo.state.gov/partners/>).

The text (http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2006/pr060921_1r.html) of the announcement on neglected tropical diseases and more information (http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/global_health/) on USAID's global health programs are available on the agency's Web site.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>.)

U.S. Response to Potential Outbreak of Avian Influenza

**U.S. Department of State
Bureau of Public Affairs
September 18, 2006**

FACT SHEET

United States International Engagement On Avian And Pandemic Influenza

The United States is working with countries in Asia, the Near East, Europe, Eurasia, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean, and with key international organizations like the World Health Organization and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, to assist in preparedness for, surveillance of, and response to a potential outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza and the subsequent threat of a human influenza pandemic. The following are highlights of actions taken by the U.S. Government to address this challenge.

PREPAREDNESS AND COMMUNICATION

The United States is supporting avian influenza preparedness efforts in at least 53 countries in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), and other international and in-country partners.

U.S. Government agencies, including the Departments of Agriculture (USDA), Health and Human

Services (HHS), Interior, and Defense, as well as the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), have deployed scientists, veterinarians, public-health experts, physicians, and emergency response teams to affected and high-risk countries to assist in the development and implementation of emergency preparedness plans and procedures for the response to avian and pandemic influenza.

The U.S. contribution of \$334 million was the largest cash pledge among bilateral donors at the Beijing donors' conference in January 2006, where the global community pledged \$1.9 billion to combat avian influenza worldwide. At the June meeting of the International Partnership on Avian and Pandemic Influenza in Vienna, the U.S. increased its pledge by \$28 million. As of September 2006, our total contribution was further increased to \$392 million. Our contribution is being used for overseas programs to:

- Facilitate the development of national plans;
- Support development of diagnostics and laboratory capacity;
- Stockpile personal protective equipment and emergency health commodities;
- Conduct international communications campaigns and public outreach activities; and

- Train responders to animal and human outbreaks.

Of the \$392 million pledged by the United States, funds are going to a variety of activities to prevent and respond to avian and pandemic influenza threats, including the following:

- \$56 million is to be used to develop stockpiles of health supplies to contain human and animal outbreaks.
- Over \$36 million is dedicated to supporting avian and human influenza-related activities of the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).
- \$41 million is planned for international research.

The U.S. is collaborating with Canadian and Mexican counterparts on a comprehensive North American Pandemic Influenza Plan through the Security and Prosperity Partnership. This endeavor also utilizes other regional partnerships to strengthen preparedness.

The U.S. is supporting communications and public awareness activities in at least 72 countries to generate awareness about avian influenza and to promote healthy behaviors and practices for the reduction of risk for disease trans-

(Continued on page 22)

U.S. Response to Potential Outbreak of Avian . . .

(Continued from page 21)

mission through USAID and HHS. These messages are geared toward audiences ranging from the general public to high-risk groups, such as poultry farmers.

SURVEILLANCE AND DETECTION

The United States is supporting efforts to improve animal and human disease surveillance systems, capacity for laboratory diagnosis, and early-warning networks in more than 40 countries, and is working with its partners to expand on-the-ground surveillance capacity and improve knowledge about the movement and changes in H5N1 avian influenza on a global scale. This includes support for upgrading and improving national and regional laboratories as well as sample collection and shipping to ensure countries are able to quickly confirm the presence of the H5N1 virus.

In 2004, the United States launched the Influenza Genome Sequencing Project. As of August 2006, genome sequences of more than 1,400 human influenza isolates have been made publicly available.

Veterinarians and diagnosticians from affected and high-risk countries are being trained at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, Iowa to conduct accurate confirmatory tests on animal specimens. USDA also has deployed specialists and provided

testing materials to priority countries to further strengthen diagnostic laboratory capacities for timely detection of HPAI in animal populations abroad.

Representatives from the U.S., Canada and Mexico are coordinating surveillance efforts for the early detection of H5N1 in wild birds of North America through the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management.

RESPONSE AND CONTAINMENT

The U.S., with FAO and WHO, is training first responders to contain animal outbreaks and to mitigate the impact of animal outbreaks on human populations. The U.S. is also working to enhance the capacity of affected countries to manage response efforts.

Since January 2006, USAID has deployed approximately 93,000 personal protective equipment (PPE) kits to 66 countries for use by responders in the field, including surveillance workers and outbreak-response teams. USAID is also building a stockpile of 1.5 million PPE kits, 100 lab kits, and 15,000 decontamination kits to critical countries around the world in anticipation of new avian influenza outbreaks.

In addition, a stockpile of antiviral medications has been positioned in Asia for potential use in the region in response to a pandemic outbreak.

In cooperation with WHO, U.S. experts have participated in investigations into human cases of AI in affected countries. The U.S. is also providing substantial technical assistance, in cooperation with the FAO and OIE, for influenza containment activities in 28 countries that have experienced animal outbreaks.

The United States is providing expertise and funding to assist FAO to develop an FAO-OIE Crisis Management Center that will facilitate its ability to mount and coordinate an international rapid response to AI animal outbreaks worldwide, integrated with human surveillance efforts in conjunction with WHO. Through the FAO-OIE Center, USDA has deployed specialists on rapid-response missions to both Sudan and Ivory Coast. The U.S. Department of Defense is planning military-to-military training and exercises, and is assisting other countries in developing military preparedness and response plans.

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)♦

PUBLIC AFFAIRS
SECTION
AMERICAN EMBASSY

P.O.Box 1014
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

Phone: 251-11-5174007
251-11-5174000
Fax: 251-11-1242454
Email: pasaddis@state.gov



Initiative Aims To Help Millions in Africa . . .

(Continued from page 6)

for households, usually assigned to women and girls, keeps girls out of classrooms, she said.

PlayPumps is the latest example of partnerships involving U.S. support for sustainable international development and for addressing the problems of poverty, lack of education and pandemic disease, Bush said.

One example, she said, is the President's Malaria Initiative, launched in June 2005. By the end of September, the initiative will have reached approximately 6 million Africans through national malaria control programs, she said. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/Archive/2005/Jul/01-739276.html>).

Another is the Mothers-to-Mothers project in South Africa, funded by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. The project helps HIV-

infected pregnant women receive support to keep their unborn children HIV-free. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2005/Jul/13-485712.html>).

"Through the generosity of governments, contributions from the private sector and the leadership of the governments of developing countries, "we can succeed in helping people everywhere build a healthier, more prosperous and more hopeful world for their children," Bush said.

The Clinton Global Initiative is a non-profit project funded by a foundation established by former President Bill Clinton.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)♦

Diplomatic Pressure Intensifies on . . .

(Continued from page 2)

The ministers are concerned that Darfur is facing a larger-scale humanitarian disaster than the one in 2003 and 2004, Natsios said.

More than 400,000 have lost their lives, some 2 million more have been driven from their homes in Darfur, and nearly 3 million depend on international aid for food, shelter and basic health needs since 2003, according to the U.N.

In an official statement afterwards, Rice and Moeller said that "we stand united in our commitment to help the people of Darfur achieve peace through the restoration of stability."

"The killings, violence and atrocities must end. The intolerable suf-

fering of the people of Darfur must stop," they said.

Rice and Moeller called on Sudan to "accept the consensus of the international community" and accept the U.N. peacekeepers as "the only responsible action."

At the United Nations, the Security Council extended the mandate of the U.N. Mission in Sudan for two weeks to build up momentum and pressure on the government in Khartoum "to accept the inevitability that there is going to be a U.N. peacekeeping force," U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. John Bolton said.

Secretary Rice's remarks (<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2006/73023.htm>) before the Security Council on Darfur and her

comments (<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2006/73027.htm>) with Foreign Minister Moeller after the meeting, as well as the transcript (<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2006/73028.htm>) of Ambassador Natsios and Assistant Secretary Frazer's briefing can be found on the State Department Web site.

For more information see Darfur Humanitarian Emergency (<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/darfur.html>).

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)♦